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### **A. List of Invitees at the National Stakeholder Consultation**

### **B. The Programme for the National Stakeholder Consultation**

### **C. Speeches delivered at the inaugural session**

- a. Welcome Address: Ms Leyla Tegmo-Reddy, Director, ILO, Kathmandu
- b. Inaugural Opening Remarks: Right Honourable Prime Minister  
Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala
- c. Keynote Address: Mr. Y. Nodera, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia  
and Pacific
- d. Address by His Excellency Mr. Ralph Frank, Ambassador, U.S. Ambassador in the  
Kingdom of Nepal
- e. Remarks by Ms. E. Muirragui, Coordinator – Education Initiative, Representative of  
the US Department of Labour
- f. Remarks and Vote of Thanks: Honourable Minister Mr. Palten Gurung, Ministry of  
Labour and Transport Management
- g. Concept of the Time-Bound Programme by Mr. Ng Gek-Boo, Director for Opera-  
tions, IPEC, ILO, Geneva

### **D. Discussion Paper**

“Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Nepal and Building National Ownership”  
by Dr. Mohan Man Sainju, Executive Chairman, Institute for Integrated Development  
Studies (IIDS)

Edited by: Ms. Patricia Roberts

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## Preface

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It is a great challenge to provide direct assistance and new hope to the thousands of Nepalese children trapped in intolerable and inhuman working conditions. Yet, it is a fact, that Nepal has been chosen as one of the first three countries on the globe in which to implement the Time-Bound Programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The world is watching, hoping that we may provide a new approach and a new set of solutions for the millions of children around the globe, whose daily work for survival cripple their bodies, their minds, and the future.

The Time-Bound Programme is our programme. It will not succeed if the people of Nepal do not own it. I cannot imagine a situation where we would have developed, launched and implemented the Time-Bound Programme without the active involvement of all stakeholders. This is simply not the way ILO works. The suggestions, the passionate remarks and the thoughts during the Consultation have convinced me that we are on the right track.

We all have a stake in the Time-Bound Programme. It is gratifying to see how representatives of organisations and institutions, from all walk of life, have taken an active part in the National Stakeholder Consultation. It has laid a strong foundation on which the Time-Bound Programme will be built.

At the same time, we must continue to build new partnerships at all levels. The three days of the National Stakeholder Consultation have been a positive stepping-stone. It was also encouraging to hear at the group work on the role of the donor community that the time is right for the Time-Bound Programme. Building links with the 10 year Master Plan for the elimination of child labour, with the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the UNDAF (framework for action of the UN agencies), the Basic Primary Education Programme, with ongoing donor initiatives and not least the 10<sup>th</sup> five-year plan is essential if we are to successfully eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Nepal.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala who kindly inaugurated the National Consultation on the Worst Forms of Child Labour and has expressed commitment at the highest level. I also thank the Chairpersons, including Honourable Vice Chairman, Mr. Prithivi Raj Ligal and other Honourable Members at the National Planning Commission, who helped in facilitating the sessions. Similarly, a special note of thanks goes to Honourable Members of Parliament, His Excellency Mr. Ralph Frank, U.S. Ambassador for the Kingdom of Nepal, US Department of Labour officials, Mr. Y. Nodera, ILO Regional Director for Asia

and Pacific, Bangkok, line ministries, Heads of UN Agencies, Employers, Trade Unions, distinguished friends and participants, and media for your contribution to this National Stakeholder Consultation.

I am grateful to the Honourable Minister Mr. Palten Gurung and Secretary Mr. P.N. Nepal, Ministry of Labour and Transport Management for their personal support in the planning and execution of this three-day consultation. My sincere thanks also goes to Mr. Ng Gek-Boo, Director for Operations, Sr. Programme Officers of IPEC, ILO Geneva, Mr. Geir Mrystad, and Mr. Yaw Ofori for their technical inputs and support in this Consultation.

Thanks go to Dr. Mohan Man Sainju for presenting the theme paper and to Mr. Basu Dev Neupane who helped us to facilitate the Consultation. I would like to thank Mr. Binod Shrestha for writing this report on the Consultation.

Last but not the least, I would also like to thank ILO and IPEC Staff Members who have been actively involved in the successful organisation of this meeting, including those behind the curtains who provided technical, administrative and logistic support. I am extremely proud to be working with such dedicated and professional colleagues.

Leyla Tegmo-Teddy  
Director  
ILO, Kathmandu  
May 2001

## Abbreviations

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BPEP	Basic and Primary Education Programme
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
DCWC	District Child Welfare Committee
DDC	District Development Committee
FNCCI-EC	Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce: Employer's Council
HMG/N	His Majesty's Government, Nepal
IIDS	Institute for Integrated Development Studies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPEC	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
MOLRM	Ministry of Land Reform and Management
MOLT	Ministry of Labour and Transport Management
MOWC&SW	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
NFE	Non-Formal Education
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NLA	National Labour Academy
NPC	National Planning Commission
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
TBP	Time-Bound Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Administrative Framework
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US-DOL	United States Department of Labour
VDC	Village Development Committee

## Executive Summary

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The three-day National Stakeholder Consultation was organized by the International Labour Organization's (ILO) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in Kathmandu from 8 to 10 May 2001.

The Time-Bound Programme aims to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour within a defined period of time. The Time-Bound Programme combines sectoral, thematic and geographical based approaches and links action against child labour to national development policies. It is essentially a set of integrated policy and programme actions designed to take place simultaneously at all levels from the individual, family, national to the international level.

Nepal is one of the first three countries on the globe selected for the development and implementation of the IPEC Time-Bound Programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Nepal pledged its commitment during the Washington Conference on "Advancing the Global Campaign Against Child Labour: Progress Made and Future Actions" in May 2000 and at the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2000.

In cooperation with His Majesty's Government and its Social Partners, the ILO/IPEC is presently building a programme of unprecedented scope to eliminate the worst forms of child labour: the Time-Bound Programme in Nepal. In this process, the National Stakeholder Consultation was organised with the overall strategic objectives to build national ownership of the time-bound programme and to enlist political and technical support of national and international organisations in the development of the time-bound programme. During the Consultation, target groups and target areas for the implementation of the Time-Bound Programme were identified and effective and practical strategies to draw an action plan for implementation of the Time-Bound Programme were outlined.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, inaugurated the National Stakeholder Consultation. The Prime Minister stated that the Time-Bound Programme offers a new ray of hope in the country's battle against the worst forms of child labour. The Prime Minister also stated that the Government of Nepal is in the process of drafting a Master Plan of Action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2005 and all forms of child labour by 2010.

The Honourable Minister for Labour and Transport Management, Mr. Palten Gurung, expressed that "The Ministry of Labour and Transport Management is highly committed and fully supports the Time-Bound Programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Nepal, and we welcome partnership of national and international agencies for achieving this common and important goal". The Vice Chairman and other members of the National Planning Commission reiterated the need to work together and to develop a holistic and practical programme of action accommodating for the socio-economic situation of the country.

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Ralph Frank mentioned that the IPEC approach, the Time-Bound Programme, offers new hope for the thousands of children trapped in the worst forms of child labour. Ms. Eileen Muirragui, Coordinator, Education and Child Labour Initiative, stated that the US Department of Labour intends to continue support for ILO/IPEC on projects that remove children from exploitative work and provide them education and their families with viable economic alternatives.

The participants at the National Stakeholder Consultation included Honourable Ministers, Honourable Members of Parliament and the National Planning Commission, Ambassadors, His Majesty's Government Secretaries, United Nations Agencies Resident Representatives and staff, as well as representatives of the employers' and workers' organizations, educational institutions, media and NGOs.

During the Consultation, a consensus was reached on the priority target groups that need to be addressed by the Time-Bound Programme. These are:

- bonded child labourers in agriculture,
- trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation,
- child porters,
- child ragpickers,
- child domestic workers,
- children working in small scale mining and
- children working in the carpet sector.

Agreement was also reached on how the geographical area for the implementation of the Time-Bound Programme must be identified and the participants pointed out some priority areas. The activities related to child rag pickers and child domestic workers would be implemented in urban centers. The activities related to Kamaiya, the child bonded labourers, will focus on the five Kamaiya districts and other districts in eastern Terai (to be identified). The focus of activities related to child trafficking will be in the 26 trafficking prone districts, urban centers as well as transit points. The activities on child porters would concentrate in the eastern and central hill districts and in such districts as Surkhet and Bajhang. The areas for work on children in mining and children in the carpet sector are yet to be identified through action research.

Operational strategies and interventions under the Time-Bound Programme were also discussed and recommended during the Consultation. Activities relating to labour and social policy, legislation and enforcement, poverty reduction, social mobilisation and awareness building, education and training, gender mainstreaming and programme management have been outlined. Following the advice from the participants, the strategic framework for the Time-Bound Programme in Nepal has now thus been outlined. Under the forthcoming Programme Formulation Mission, the challenges will be to translate these strategies into operational action plans.

The Consultation also identified specific roles and responsibilities of the key stakeholders in consideration of the comparative advantage of the institutions. The government should take up the responsibility of leadership, coordination and of assuring the involvement of decentralised levels as well as to allocate resources in budgets at national, DDC and VDC levels for activities directed at the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The employers' and workers' organisations should utilise their nationwide networks for advocacy and lobbying, and also take affirmative action through

codes of conduct. They could also replicate good practices such as the area-based approach as developed in existing IPEC Action Programme. Civil society and NGOs should be involved in awareness raising, advocacy, lobbying and direct action programmes related to prevention and rehabilitation of the children. The donor community can assist by mobilising resources and assuring effectiveness, donor coordination and synergy in the programme.

Mr. Y. Nodera, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific called on everyone to join in the struggle against the worst forms of child labour so that together we can make a decisive breakthrough against the global scourge of child labour and restore childhood to millions of children throughout the world.

On a final note, Ms Leyla Tegmo-Reddy, Director, ILO, Kathmandu, thanked all the participations for the valuable suggestions and critical thoughts shared during the Consultation. She finally expressed that the ILO looks forward to working with all stakeholders and will continue to build new partnerships at all levels in the future for the benefit of the children trapped in intolerable and inhuman working conditions.

